The Wildlife (Protection) Act is quite comprehensive and there are no loopeholes in it. Moreover, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is in the process of being amended to make the enforcement more effective. Similarly administrative measures have also been taken as indicated in the Statement to Part (b) *(See* below).

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to Protect Tiger and to Control Illegal Trade of Tiger Parts

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and Conservation of tiger, leopard and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) A network of 441 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. Km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them

(v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The trade in ivory is totally banned.

(vi) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(vii) Inter-departmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisation like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.

(viii) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country.

(ix) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

(x) Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas;

(xi) A Protocol has been signed with the Govt. of Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning, tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and

(xii) Steps have initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global' Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the tiger range countries.

Development of forest resources in the Ninth Five Year Plan

2615. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to develop forest resources in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government have also made any review on the total forest resources destroyed and forest areas degraded during the Eighth Five Year Plan alongwith afforestation made in that plan;

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof alongwith the plan formulated and target set for development of forest resources in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Forest Survey of India (FSI), assesses the change in the forest cover of the Country biennially and publish a State of Forest Report. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the assessment of

forest cover was made in 1993 and 1995. The state-wise details of the change in the forest cover during the period 1993-95 as per the State of Forest Report, 1997 and area afforested during Eighth Five Year Plan is given in the Statement *(See* below). State-wise targets for the development of forest resources during the Ninth Five Year Plan have yet not been finalised.

Statement

State/UT	Forest cover as per 1993 assessment (in sq. km.)	Forest cover as per 1995 assessment (in sq. km.)	Change in forest cover during 1993 to 1995 (in sq. km.)	Area afforested during the Eighth Plan Period (in sq. km.)
Andhra Pradesh	47112	43290	−3822	3170.74
Arunachal Pradesh	68621	68602	−19	387.32
Assam	24061	23824	−237	925.86
Bihar	26561	26524	−37	861.45
Delhi	26	26	0	69.49
Goa, Daman & Diu	1250	1255	+5	81.42
Gujarat	12320	12578	+258	3650.36
Haryana	603	604	+1	1567.52
Himachal Pradesh	12501	12521	+20	1576.54
Jammu & Kashmir	20433	20440	+7	990.49
Karnataka	32382	32403	+21	2677.10
Kerala	10336	10334	−2	653.01
Madhya Pradesh	135164	131195	−3969	6557.58
Maharashtra	43843	46143	+2300	5211.27
Manipur	17558	17418	−140	442.78
Meghalaya	15714	15657	−57	292.23
Mizoram	18576	18775	+199	664.12
Nagaland	14291	14221	−70	92.53
Orissa	47107	46941	−166	4151.22
Punjab	1342	1387	+45	701.04
Rajasthan	13280	13353	+73	4011.24
Sikkim	3127	3129	+2	368.56
Tamil Nadu	17045	17064	+19	4578.40
Tripura	5538	5546	+8	521.40
U.P.	33986	33994	+8	30.04
W. Bengal	8276	8349	+73	1894.94
A&N	7615	7613	−2	180.46
Chandigarh	7	7	0	16.94
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	204	204	0	34.81
Lakshdweep	—	—	—	2.96
Pondicherry	—	—	—	6.46
TOTAL	638879	633397	−5482	506070.31